



STATE REPRESENTATIVE (R) • 4th DISTRICT



1997 Session Review

House Committees:

- Appropriations
- Energy and Utilities
– *chairman*

Olympia address:

331 John L. O'Brien Bldg.
PO Box 40600
Olympia, WA 98504-0600

Internet:

crouse_la@leg.wa.gov

Olympia phone:

(360) 786-7820

Home phone:

(509) 924-6029

Toll-free

legislative hotline:

1-800-562-6000



Dear Neighbors,

The 1997 Legislature finished its 105-day session on April 27. It was a very historic session because we completed several important tasks such as welfare reform and juvenile justice reform, and we did it all within the time allotted. This marks the first year since 1957 that the Legislature has concluded a budget-writing session on time. That achievement alone makes the session noteworthy.

There were other achievements. We passed a two-year \$19.073 billion operating budget that is \$112 million below the limit established by Initiative 601. The new budget spends 7.7 percent more money than the 1995-97 budget, which is the smallest increase in spending growth since 1971. The new spending plan leaves the state with a reserve fund of \$362 million. We also approved \$411 million in tax cuts, including a significant property tax relief and reform package and a repeal of the business and occupation tax increase imposed by the 1993 Legislature.

During our time in Olympia, the House of Representatives and Senate considered thousands of bills. Of that total, only several hundred were passed by the Legislature and sent to Gov. Gary Locke for his consideration.

One of the key reasons why so much was achieved this year was the concerted effort to cooperate more in the Legislature. In the past, the House and Senate have been controlled by different parties, resulting in gridlock. However, House and Senate leaders and committee chairmen did an excellent job of communicating with each other. This made the legislative process run much more smoothly.

Although the job of passing bills was made easier by having Republicans control the Legislature, there also was a great deal of cooperation between Republicans and Democrats this year on key issues, including juvenile justice reform and welfare reform.

As was the case with last year's session review, this newsletter lists many of the key bills introduced this session, and it shows how far each of these measures traveled through the legislative process. I hope you enjoy this report. If you have any questions, comments or concerns about these or other topics, feel free to contact my home or Olympia office.

Sincerely,

Rep. Larry Crouse

1997 Session Report Card

Here is a status report on a number of important bills that were introduced this session. If you need more information on any of these bills, please call my Olympia office at (360) 786-7820.	House Committee	House Action	Senate Committee	Senate Action	Conference	Governor
Providing relief to taxpayers						
EHB 1417 - Extending by one year the 4.7 percent reduction in the state property tax levy	Passed	Passed	Passed	Passed		Signed into law
ESSB 5286 - Barring property taxes on business intangibles, including trademarks, trade names, brand names, patents, copyrights, franchise agreements and trade secrets	Passed	Passed	Passed	Passed		Signed into law
EHB 1821 - Repealing the remaining half of the business and occupation tax increase passed in 1993 (takes effect in 1998)	Passed	Passed	Passed	Passed		Signed into law
SSB 5763 - Prohibiting the taxation of Internet services	Passed	Passed	Passed	Passed		Signed into law
SHB 1003 - Tax deferrals for senior citizens and disabled persons	Passed	Passed	Passed	Passed		Signed into law
Welfare reform						
EHB 3901 - Reforming the state's welfare system	Passed	Passed	Passed	Passed		Partially vetoed
Reforming criminal justice system						
E3SHB 3900 - Reforming the state's juvenile justice system	Passed	Passed	Passed	Passed	Passed	Signed into law
SHB 1176 - Adding certain sex offenses committed against children to the "two strikes" provision of a law increasing sentences for sex offenders	Passed	Passed	Passed	Passed		Signed into law
HB 1069 - Banning the malicious use of explosives, such as terrorist acts	Passed	Passed	Passed	Passed		Signed into law
Health care issues						
E2SHB 1850 - Reforming aspects of long-term care system	Passed	Passed	Passed	Passed	Passed	Partially vetoed
ESHB 2018 - Reforming individual health insurance market	Passed	Passed	Passed	Passed		Partially vetoed
ESHB 2264 - Eliminating the Health Care Policy Board	Passed	Passed	Passed	Passed		Signed into law
Fighting government waste and inefficiency						
E2SHB 1032 - Regulatory reform	Passed	Passed	Passed	Passed		Partially vetoed
SB 6094 - Revising the Growth Management Act	Passed	Passed	Passed	Passed		Partially vetoed

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1997 Session Report Card (continued)

	House Committee	House Action	Senate Committee	Senate Action	Conference	Governor
Improving the quality of our education system						
ESHB 2042 - Improving reading skills	Passed	Passed	Passed	Passed		Signed into law
HB 1581 - Making it easier to keep violent, disruptive students, gang members and sex offenders out of schools	Passed	Passed	Passed	Passed	Passed	Signed into law
ESHB 1085 - Requiring parental notification before a school conducts certain tests or surveys	Passed	Passed	Passed	Passed		Vetoed
HJR 4208 - Allowing school levies for four-year periods	Passed	Passed	Passed	Passed	Filed with Secretary of State	
SSB 5118 - Changing truancy provisions	Passed	Passed	Passed	Passed		Signed into law
Environmental issues						
E2SHB 1866 - Allowing for creation of environmental excellence program agreements	Passed	Passed	Passed	Passed		Partially vetoed
HB 1189 - Making the ban on oil and gas exploration and production off Washington coast permanent	Passed	Passed	Passed	Passed		Signed into law
Social issues						
HB 1130 - Banning same-gender marriages	Passed	Passed	Passed	Passed		Vetoed
SHB 1031 - Limiting late-term and partial-birth abortions	Passed	Died				
SB 5255 - Requiring parental notification prior to a minor receiving an abortion	Passed	Died	Passed	Passed		
Other bills						
E2SHB 1372 - Establishing prepaid college tuition program	Passed	Passed	Passed	Passed		Signed into law
HB 2192 - Allowing voters to decide whether to provide funding for Seahawks' stadium	Passed	Passed	Passed	Passed		Signed into law
HB 1398 - Creating additional judicial positions in Spokane Superior Court	Passed	Passed	Passed	Passed		Signed into law
2SHB 1201 - Reauthorizing assistance to rural areas	Passed	Passed	Passed	Passed	Passed	Signed into law
HB 1924 - Changing the sentencing for sex offenses	Passed	Passed	Passed	Passed		Signed into law
HB 1081 - Strengthening policies regarding banning tobacco use at schools	Passed	Passed	Passed	Passed		Signed into law
SB 5666 - Regulating smoking in the workplace	Passed	Passed	Passed	Died		

Rep. Larry Crouse

Call me if you need help or have an idea to share

As your state representative, one of my duties is to help you in dealing with state government. It is a responsibility that I take seriously. If you are getting the "runaround" from a state agency and need help, feel free to contact me. I'll do my best to help solve the problem.

Also, if you have any ideas for new legislation for the 1998 session, please share your thoughts with me. I appreciate hearing from you.



***Rep. Crouse discusses legislation
with a House staffer.***

Rep. Larry Crouse

PO Box 40600
Olympia, WA 98504-0600

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